

If any one should object to this method of writing, as the author is informed some supercilious weak people have done, he begs they would consider that it was, as Mr. *Addison* observes, the first species of wit that made its appearance in the world, and has been highly valued, not only in times of the greatest simplicity, but also among the most polite and refined ages of mankind. We find, even in the holy scriptures, this sort of instruction and admonition apply'd; when plain reasoning or the downright truth would not perhaps have been so safe or so effectual. *Joshua's* parable of the trees in the ninth chapter of *Judges* is of this kind, as is also that of *Nathan's* poor man and his lamb, which conveyed instruction to the ear of a king without offending it, and brought *David* to a proper sense of his guilt and of his duty. We find *Æsop* reading lectures of this sort in the most distant ages of *Greece*; and in the very beginning of the *Roman* commonwealth,

wealth, we see a man
pleased by a fable
the limbs; which gave
that incensed rabble
would have torn to
had preached the fable
in an open and direct

As fables took their
infancy of learning;
ed more than when
greatest height. To
I shall put my reader
the greatest wit and
age; and of *Boileau*
among the moderns
la Fontaine, who by
is come more into vogue
author of our times.

Reading, (says Mr.
place) is to the mind
the body: as by the
served, strengthened
the other, virtue (w
the mind) is kept